

HTML Images

Images to use

Images must be in .gif or .jpg formats. A format is more than affixing a suffix on a file name. To convert an image in another format to gif or jpg, drawing software must be used, such as OpenOffice Draw. A good source for images is the web itself, using the Image search feature in Google. When you find an image you wish to use on the web, it normally can be saved using a right-click (Windows) or a control-click (Mac). If you get the image this way, it normally will be a gif or jpg. Images obtained this way still are subject to normal copyright laws and must be used accordingly.

The Image Tag

An image tag is a single tag, no closing tag is needed. The image tag will have modifiers for source, and possibly for alignment, sizing, borders, surrounding space, and an image alternate description.

The *source* modifier identifies the image to be used. ``. The location of the image can be modified to indicate an image within a folder above or below the relative location of the page using the image ``. This tag finds a gif image in the folder "Images" that is in the same folder as the page holding the tag.

Alignment of the image can be modified in two respects. First in relation to its location horizontally across the page or window ``, ``, or ``. Since left is the default, one only would use this modifier in a situation where alignments for all items already had been shifted to center or right.

Alignment also can be adjusted vertically. In this instance another "align=" modifier would be used with top, texttop, middle, absmiddle, baseline, bottom, absbottom. A graphic sits on a line as if it was a character and these vertical modifiers position the graphic relative to that line.

Sizing the image can include setting width and height dimensions in pixels, border size in pixels (or absence with 0 pixels), and the vertical and horizontal space around an image, also in pixels. These modifiers also reside inside the img tag as `width=x`, `height=x`, `border=x`, `vspace=x`, and `hspace=x`.

Images do not always load as they should. An *alternate* modifier within the img tag tells the viewer what the image was supposed to represent if it does not load properly, `alt="xxx"` or ``. This is particularly useful when images are used as link indicators.

Using Images as Links

An image can be used as a link indicator when an img tag is coupled within opening and closing access tags, ``.

When an image is used this way, a blue border will appear around the image to indicate it is a link. The border can be eliminated as indicated above by setting a border modifier within the img tag, ``.

Embedding an Image within Text

Because an image is treated as a "letter" on a line of text, one must go to some effort to build text around an image. Tables often are used for this purpose, but modifying a line break tag can also be used to do the same thing. One simply scripts the line break to clear to the opposite direction of the image horizontal window alignment. The br modifier to use is "clear=". So, if , then `<img`

src="dogs.gif" align=left> then <br clear=right> brings text to close around the right of the image.

Transparent Backgrounds

Often an image will have a square background in a color that is different from the background color you are using.

To make that background transparent, use the Eyedropper Tool, as is found in OpenOffice Draw (under Tools on the menubar).

Select the color to be made transparent and set the tolerance to 0%. Export the image to a .gif format with interlacing, etc., and use.

If you are following these pages in sequence, you do not yet know how to change the background color of a web page. Remember this is here and come back to it when the problem arises that this instruction addresses.